

***Amendments to the Claims***

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Claims 1-6 (Cancelled).

7. (Previously Presented) A mower tractor comprising:

a hydraulic axle driving apparatus including an oil sump;

left and right wheels driven by said hydraulic axle driving apparatus;

a chute for grass clippings disposed between said left and right wheels;

a transmission belt for driving said axle driving apparatus disposed to one lateral side of said chute; and

an oil reservoir disposed to the other lateral side of said chute opposite to said transmission belt, wherein said oil reservoir fluidly communicates with the oil sump in said hydraulic axle driving apparatus.

8. (Currently Amended) A mower tractor comprising:

an axle driving apparatus;

a housing for said axle driving apparatus;

a chute for grass clippings disposed directly above said housing; and

an oil reservoir for said axle driving apparatus disposed sidewise from said chute so as to avoid abutting against said chute.

9. (Previously Presented) A mower tractor comprising:

an engine having an engine output pulley;

an axle driving apparatus having an input pulley;  
an idler pulley for said axle driving apparatus;  
a belt looped over said engine output pulley, said input pulley and said idler pulley, wherein said belt is disposed to one lateral side of said input pulley; and  
an oil reservoir for said axle driving apparatus disposed to the other lateral side of said input pulley opposite to said belt.